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Application No.: 10/561,768

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REMARKS

This amendment supplements Applicants' Request for Continued Examination and associated reply dated October 10, 2010.

Claim 1 is amended to restate the composition of the carbide precursors, the support for which were provided in Applicants' reply of October 10, 2010.

Claims 2 and 18 are amended so as to make reference to the carbide composition consistent with claim 1.

Claim 17 is canceled.

Claim 20 is amended to describe the difference between the first and second temperatures as being about 200°C. Support for this amendment may be found in FIGs. 1a, 2b, and 2c of the originally filed application.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Hendrickson for to his call of February 24, 2011 to their undersigned representative, during which Examiner Hendrickson identified several areas for possible reconsideration, prompting this supplemental amendment.

An early and favorable examination is respectfully requested.

Date: March 2, 2011 /Thomas W. Dekleva/

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